

By STUART EARP **Hayes 1, Wycombe Wanderers 0**

IF Wycombe Wanderers needed any confirmation of their desperate need for forwards, they got the message on Tuesday night when, after dominating the game, they were shattered by an 89th minute breakaway goal from Hayes substitute Keith Morris.

Wycombe, who forced eight corners in a one-sided second half, should have had their second Isthmian League Premier Division game sewn up by the time Morris broke clear and crashed home a beautiful goal to send the visiting fans home bitterly disappointed.

But they missed a string of chances and paid the full penalty when a share of the points looked certain. The result was something of a travesty as Wanderers were clearly the superior side on the night.

Nevertheless, until they start to acquire more forwards this sort of performance and result is likely to be repeated.

As at Croydon on Saturday, Wanderers looked useful when building their attacks from the four men midfield but whenever

play entered the Hayes penalty area, it was always a home defender who won the ball to relieve any danger. Only when one of the midfield players made a run into the box did a goal look imminent, but they were out of luck on Tuesday.

OUTSTANDING

If anyone deserved a goal it was Mick Holifield, who had an outstanding game and certainly didn't deserve to finish on the losing side. Once again the defence also performed creditably but with Howard Kennedy and John Priestley below par, the Blues were never firing on all cylinders.

Facing their former clubmate Dave Bullock for the first time since he left Loakes Park, Wanderers took time to get going and it was 20 minutes before goalkeeper Alan Cox was tested by Evans. The awkward Terry Brown drove over at the other end but Wanderers gradually took control.

Although unable to get forward at any speed, they had by far the greater share of the ball and should have gone one up when Evans turned brilliantly and set up a chance for Paul Birdseye who drove wide. Before half time, both Horseman and Graham Mackenzie went close to opening the account.

Three corners in the first six minutes of the second half was a measure of Wycombe's dominance. But they could easily have gone behind in the 58th minute had it not been for the covering of Keith Mead. Maskell missed the ball from a free kick and centre-half Bobby Goldthorpe headed what looked a certain goal until Mead raced across to clear off the line. It would have been a harsh punishment for the Blues as referee Ernie Day's free kick against Mackenzie was somewhat debatable.

From then on, it was virtually all one-way traffic towards the Hayes goal. Alan Phillips sent a left-foot drive over the top and then Horseman spurned a great chance in the 75th minute. Mackenzie crossed into the box after a short corner and 'Bodger' rose well but was just too high with a powerful header.

ALL BLOCKED

In another moment of pressure, three shots were fired in from Wycombe following a corner but all three were blocked by Hayes, who brought all 11 back into the box for set pieces.

Despite this concerted pressure, however, the number of clear-cut chances was fairly low — purely because there was no one there to get onto the string of crosses sent into the penalty area.

Birdseye overlapped with considerable menace but his efforts were inevitably wasted. With five minutes to go, Holifield flicked a header just wide from Kennedy's cross but four minutes later, Hayes shocked even their own supporters by snatching the winner.

With Wycombe pushing forward in search of a late goal, Brown took a clearance near

half way and hopefully punted the ball downfield. Speedy substitute Morris was onto it in a flash and his pace took him clear of the defence. Maskell came out but had no chance with the shot that flashed past him and found the back of the net.

I fancy even Hayes would admit that this result was something akin to robbery but unless Wanderers improve up front, this won't be the last time they dominate a game — and lose.

HAYES: A. Cox; A. Nemes, R. Leather, R. Goldthorpe, D. Bullock; M. McGovern, L. Craker, A. Carrington; G. Bartlett, J. Adams (sub K. Morris, 86 mins), T. Brown.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, R. Davies; G. Mackenzie, H. Kennedy, J. Priestley, M. Holifield; A. Horseman, D. Evans. Sub. W. Roberts (not used).

Half-time: 0-0. **Goalscorer:** Hayes — Morris (89).

Referee: E. Day (Walthamstow).

BLUES SAME AGAIN?

AFTER their disappointing last minute defeat at Hayes on Tuesday, Wycombe Wanderers face a tough clash against Leatherhead tomorrow (Saturday) in their first home Isthmian League Premier Division match of the season.

Wanderers may be without John Maskell which will mean Peter Spittle taking over in goal but otherwise manager John Reardon is unlikely to alter the side. Although disappointed with Tuesday's result, he said: "Given a little more time I'm pretty optimistic we can improve considerably. We are creating the chances but we are not putting enough away at the moment."

Leatherhead will provide a stern test for the Blues tomorrow. They have yet to lose in the league having beaten Hayes 1-0 at home on Saturday and drawn 0-0 at Leytonstone on Tuesday. John Baker missed a penalty in the latter game.

The Tanners will include new signing Dennis Malley, a centre back from Slough, while other new players are skipper Billy Salkeld from Staines and Colin Brooks, a former Arsenal reserve. Colin Woffenden, Willie Smith and Derek Wells have all left.

SPONSORED WALK

Wycombe Wanderers and Marlow supporters are staging a sponsored walk on Sunday morning to raise funds. Wycombe will walk the 10 miles to Marlow and back while Marlow walkers reverse the journey. Refreshments are available at both grounds. The walk starts at 11 am.